

## Mary, Joseph, alien species... Guess who's on the beach today? “The guardians of the coast” are back again.

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Students of the catering school “E. Cornaro”, in the framework of a project of citizen science, named “*Guardians of the coast*”, promoted by Costa Crociere foundation, in collaboration with the Robotic School, the Ligurian Fisheries and Environment Observatory (OLPA) and TLC Web Solutions S.R.L. of Genoa, have “adopted a stretch of coast” of Jesolo, near Venice, on the Adriatic Sea, to carry out monitoring and surveys. The project, allowed to collect data about fauna occurrent (*Chamelea gallina*, *Callista chione*, *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, *Donax trunculus*, *Donax vittatus*, *Ensis minor*, *Cerastoderma spp.*, *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, etc.) flora, waste (plastic), alien species; moreover it also aimed to raise awareness among students and citizens on the coastal marine environment, on pollution related problems, on the sustainable use of marine resources, because everything has repercussions on our table and on our food. In addition, attention was also focused on the sustainable consumption of fish, to limit the exploitation of the usual species, valorizing in the recipes the “poor fish” and species with low commercial value. Investigations have also highlighted social and economic aspects, related to a building development and improper exploitation of the coastal strip. The information, data and images have been collected, useful digital tools, including an application for iOS and Android devices that allowed georeferencing and the creation of maps; these data are loaded to a nationally shared open database, with students and citizens who have operated along other parts of the Italian coast. These data collected by amateur and non-professional scientists could be useful to assist professionals, in collecting information, with significant results to protect the marine environment.

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